OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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FBI

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

February 11, 1964

original file
Oswald Pat-
Revision 2

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to your conversation with Inspector James R. Malley of this Bureau on February 7, 1964, regarding Lonnie Hudkins, the Houston "Post" reporter who wrote an article in the January 1, 1964, issue of the Houston "Post" entitled "Oswald Rumored as Informant for U.S."

For your information, Mr. Alonzo F. Hudkins, III, also known as Lonnie Hudkins, was interviewed by Agents of this Bureau on February 8, 1964, in this matter. Mr. Hudkins stated he arrived in Dallas, Texas, in late December, 1963, to check out rumors that Oswald might have been an informant of the FBI. He stated such rumors were based on information he had received from Assistant District Attorney William Alexander to the effect that Oswald's address book contained the name of Agent Hosty, his office and home telephone numbers and his automobile license number. Mr. Hudkins also stated he had interviewed Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, who said that Oswald was doing important subversive work for the Government.

Mr. Hudkins further stated he had contacted a Government official, not a Federal official in Dallas, who had told him that Oswald was on the payroll of either the FBI or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with voucher number 179 and that he had received no less than $150 a month and no more than $225 a month. Mr. Hudkins claimed that the official who furnished him this information had furnished him reliable information in the past which he had been able to print. Mr. Hudkins stated he did not print anything stating Oswald was

an informant of the FBI or CIA but merely raised this question in his article in the Houston "Post" of January 1, 1964, since he had only this official's word and did not have any supporting documents of any kind to substantiate this allegation. He further stated he had made inquiries of some of his friends in Houston, Texas, whose names he would not divulge and had also requested his Washington, D. C., headquarters to attempt to check out this allegation. According to Mr. Hudkins this allegation could not be verified through any of his sources and, therefore, was not printed in the Houston "Post."

Mr. Hudkins was questioned at length in an attempt to ascertain his source that Oswald was an FBI or CIA informant, but Mr. Hudkins refused to divulge his source or to furnish a signed statement. He stated that when he received this information from his source he was alone and no other reporters were present.

According to Mr. Hudkins, the only other information he had heard that Oswald might be a symbol number informant was from Joe Golden, a reporter of the "Philadelphia Inquirer," who was in Dallas in late December, 1963. According to Hudkins, Mr. Golden mentioned to him a number different from 179, that might have been a voucher number. Mr. Hudkins stated he could not recall the number.

At the conclusion of our interview with Mr. Hudkins he stated that even if he were called to appear before the President's Commission, he would decline to furnish the source of his information.

In connection with Mr. Hudkins' reference to Joe Golden, please be advised that we have interviewed Mr. Joseph Goulden, a reporter for the "Philadelphia Inquirer," in connection with an article Mr. Goulden reported in the December 8, 1963, issue of the "Philadelphia Inquirer," wherein he alleged that Lee Harvey Oswald at one time had been contacted by the FBI to become an informant. He said he had obtained this information from a law enforcement officer in Dallas whom he declined to identify. We reinterviewed Joseph Goulden on December 16, 1963, in an attempt to pin down the source of his allegation, but Mr. Goulden declined to identify the law enforcement officer after allegedly having talked to him on the telephone. He did say, however, that the officer told him that the matter was being "handled through proper channels."

Honorable J. Lee Rankin

For your added information, we have contacted the Dallas Police Department, Dallas, Texas, to determine if an allegation had been made a matter of record to the effect that Lee Harvey Oswald at one time had been contacted by the FBI to become an informant. No such record was found in the files of the Dallas Police Department, Dallas, Texas.

The foregoing is furnished for your information in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover